

CLAIMS:

1. A method comprising:
engaging a manipulating device with the apex of the heart to define a chamber;
5 applying vacuum pressure to the chamber; and
deploying a bag-like device around at least a portion of the heart.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising manipulating the heart with the bag-like device.
- 10 3. The method of claim 2, wherein manipulating the heart comprises lifting the heart.
4. The method of claim 1, further comprising securing the bag-like device around the heart.
- 15 5. The method of claim 4, wherein securing the bag-like device around the heart comprises pulling a drawstring.
6. The method of claim 5, further comprising constricting one end of the bag-like device
20 by pulling the drawstring.
7. The method of claim 1, wherein deploying the bag-like device around the heart comprises unrolling the bag-like device.
- 25 8. The method of claim 1, further comprising:
threading a vacuum tube through an aperture in the bag-like device; and
applying vacuum pressure to the chamber through the vacuum tube.
9. The method of claim 1, further comprising cutting the bag-like device to expose a
30 region of the heart.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein cutting the bag-like device comprises insertion of at least part of a cutting instrument into a mesh aperture of the bag-like device.

11. The method of claim 1, further comprising cutting the bag-like device to remove the bag-like from device from around the heart.

12. An apparatus comprising:
a manipulating device that contacts an organ; and
a bag-like device that extends around a substantial volume of the organ and the manipulating device.

13. The apparatus of claim 12, the bag-like device comprising a pliable netting.

14. The apparatus of claim 12, the bag-like device comprising a center region that engages the manipulating device.

15. The apparatus of claim 12, the bag-like device comprising a netting defining mesh apertures.

16. The apparatus of claim 12, the bag-like device comprising a center region and a perimeter, the perimeter comprising a pliable netting and a drawstring.

17. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the bag-like device is formed from a flexible polymer.

18. The apparatus of claim 12, further comprising a support shaft coupled to the manipulating device.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, the support shaft comprising a vacuum tube.

20. The apparatus of claim 18, the bag-like device further comprising an aperture sized to permit passage of the support shaft and sized to block passage of the manipulating device.

21. A method comprising:

engaging an organ with a manipulating device;
deploying a bag-like device around a substantial volume of the organ; and
manipulating the organ with the manipulating device and the bag-like device.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein adhering the manipulating device to the organ comprises:

engaging the manipulating device with the organ to define a chamber; and
applying vacuum pressure to the chamber such that a portion of the manipulating device deforms to substantially seal the chamber against leakage.

23. The method of claim 21, wherein manipulating the organ comprises at least one of lifting, supporting, twisting and moving the organ.

24. The method of claim 21, further comprising securing the bag-like device around the organ.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein deploying the bag-like device comprises unrolling the bag-like device.

26. The method of claim 21, further comprising cutting the bag-like device.